

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 01355 270853Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 AF-06 CU-02 /075 W

----- 073214

R 261718Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1164

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USEC BRUSSELS 1020

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1355

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH GOVT TIGHTENS CONTROLS

REF A. MADRID 937 B. MADRID 851 C. MADRID 799 D. MADRID 429

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT TOUGH ACTIONS BY GOVT IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS PRINCIPALLY RE PRESS, LABOR, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC ORDER, BACKED UP BY FIRM STATEMENTS, SUGGEST GOVT HAS OPTED FOR FIRMER LINE AGAINST ALL FORM OF DISSENT AND MAY HAVE BEGUN TO CURTAIL UNUSUAL PRESS FREEDOM THAT HAS PREVAILED DURING PAST YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. SERIES OF GOVT ACTIONS DURING RECENT WEEKS APPEAR DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE AND REIMPOSE GREATER CONTROL OVER PRESS, FOLLOWING PAST YEAR UNDER FORMER INFORMATION MINISTER PIO CABANILLAS AND HIS SUCCESSOR, LEON HERRERA, DURING WHICH PRESS HAS BEEN- FOR SPAIN-- REMARKABLY FREE. RECENT REPRESSIVE MEASURES AIMED AT PRESS INCLUDE:

(A) SEQUESTRATION OF JAN ISSUE OF MONTHLY OPPOSITION-ORIENTED MAGAZINE "CUADERNOS PARA EL DIALOGO" BECAUSE IT CONTAINED AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 01355 270853Z

ARTICLE CONCERNING A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF LEADING OPPOSITION

FIGURES ON SUBJECT OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS; (B) PENDING SANCTIONS INCLUDING REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED TWO-WEEK SUSPENSION, OF WEEKLY OPPOSITION-ORIENTED MAGAZINE "CAMBIO 16" FOR RECENT ARTICLE RE DEC HUNGER STRIKES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; (C) POLICE INTERROGATIONS OF THREE SPANISH JOURNALISTS, WHO ARE CORRESPONDENTS FOR BOTH SPANISH AND FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS, FOR HAVING ATTENDED A CLANDESTINE PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 18 OF ILLEGAL DEMOCRATIC JUNTA (REF C) AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST OF 2 OTHER JOURNALISTS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SAME PRESS CONFERENCE 1 OF WHOM WAS HELD IN JAIL SEVERAL DAYS UNTIL RELEASED ON BAIL); (D) AND THE TWO-WEEK SUSPENSION OF A MIDDLE RANKING GOVT LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL, WHO ALSO DOUBLES AS A JOURNALIST, FOR AN ARTICLE HE WROTE CRITICIZING LABOR MINISTRY IN "CAMBIO 16"; (E) TEMPORARY DELAY AND CENSORSHIP OF "ABC'S" INTERVIEW WITH DON JUAN DE BORBON ON SPAIN'S POLITICAL FUTURE; AND (F) DISMISSAL OF POPULAR "YA" COLUMNIST LUIS APOSTUA AS INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF INI AS REPRISAL FOR HIS CRITICISM OF GOVT'S CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID.

3. THESE ACTIONS HAVE AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INDIGNATION IN SPANISH AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES. BOTH SPANISH PRESS AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS PRESS ASSOCIATION IN MADRID HAV SUBMITTED PETITIONS TO PRESIDENT ARIAS PROTESTING TREATMENT ACCORDED SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS IN SOME OF ABOVE INCIDENTS. INFORMATION MIN HERRERA, IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HAS FORESWORN ANY INTENTION TO RESTRICT PRESS FREEDOM, BUT HAS CAUTIONED THAT PRESS LAW REMAINS OPERATIVE AND THAT HE INTENDS TO ACT AGAINST THOSE WHO GO BEYOND ITS LIMITS. HERRERA IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD HIS SENIOR AIDES AND FELLOW CABINET MEMBERS THAT HE HAS NO CRAVING FOR MARTYRDOM AND DOES NOT INTEND TO SUFFER THE FATE OF FORMER MINISTER PIO CABANILLAS. THERE IS ALSO REPORT THAT INFORMATION MINISTRY NOW RECEIVING SOME GUIDANCE FROM INTERIOR MINISTRY IN DEALING WITH PRESS LAW VIOLATIONS.

4. EDUCATION SPHERE IS ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH GOVT HAS HARDENED ITS APPROACH. MOSTRECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS GOVT'S ABRUPT AND COMPLETE CLOSURE LAST WEEK OF UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID FOR REST OF ACADEMIC YEAR (REF A) DUE TO INTENSE STUDENT AGITATION DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS ACTION SEEMED DESIGNED TO SET AN EXAMPLE OF GOVT FIRMNESS FOR BENEFIT OF OTHER LARGER AND MORE IMPORTANT UNIVERSITIES, AND VALLADOLID APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY EXTENSIVE CAMPUS TURMOIL BUT ALSO BECAUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 01355 270853Z

IT HAS BEEN ONE OF CITIES MOST AFFECTED BY CURRENT LABOR AGITATION (E.G. AT NEARBY RENAULT FACTORY) AND HAD WITNESSED SEVERAL INSTANCES OF STUDENTS RALLYING TO SUPPORT OF STRIKING WORKERS. EDUCATION MIN MARTINEZ ESTERUELAS, IN A CORTES PRESENTATION FEB 10, MAINTAINED GOVT'S HARD LINE RE VALLADOLID CLOSING WHEN HE STATED THAT GOVT WOULD MAINTAIN ORDER IN UNIVERSITY "WITH FIRMNESS AND SERENITY AT THE SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY". GOVT'S DRASTIC ACTION AT VALLADOLID UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN VIEWED BY MANY, EVEN WITHIN ESTAB-

LISHMENT, AS OVER REACTION, AND IT HAS EVOKED NUMEROUS PROTESTS AND PETITIONS BY PARENTS OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY WHO, IF VALLADOLID UNIVERSITY IS NOT REOPENED, WILL NOW LOSE ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR.

5. GOVT HAS ALSO BEGUN TO ACT WITH INCREASING TOUGHNESS IN LABOR SPHERE. GOVT DURING PAST MONTH HAS SWITCHED TO A TOUGHER STANCE RE USE OF POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES IN STRIKES, AND IT HAS ALOS ADOPTED TOUGH STANCE RE STRIKES, AGITATION, AND PROTESTS FOR FIRST TIME DURING PAST TWO WEEKS OVER WORKER REPRESENTATIVITY AND RIGHT TO ORGANIZE IN SUCH MIDDLE CLASS ESTABLISHMENT SECTORS AS GOVT EMPLOYEES, ACTORS AND ACTRESSES, AND SHOPKEEPERS. ADDITIONALLY THERE HAVE BEEN ARRESTS IN SOME OF RECENT LABOR DISPUTES (E.G., 4 ACTORS AND ACTRESSES WERE KEPT IN JAIL FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE BEING RELEASED), AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS GOVT IS GOING TO BRING A NUMBER OF PENDING TRIALS OF LABOR LEADERS BEFORE PUBLIC ORDER TRIBUNAL DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS INSTRUCTED RADIO STATIONS TO AVOID REFS TO "STRIKES" IN NEWSCASTS.

6. GOVT'S OVERALL ATTITUDE TOWARDS GENERAL QUESTION OF PUBLIC ORDER HAS ALSO VISIBLY STIFFENED DURING RECENT WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO EDUCATION MIN'S RECENT SPEECH, OTHER STATEMENTS BY LEADING CABINET MINISTERS HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT GOVT HAS RESOURCES AND DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER ABOVE ALL ELSE, AS FORE EXMAPLES IN RECENT IMPORTANT JAN 18 STATEMENT BY INTERIOR MIN GARCIA HERNANDEZ (REF D) AND BY MIN OF INFORMATION HERRERA SPEAKING FOR CABINET AS A WHOLE FOLLOWING FEB 7 CANINET MEETING.

7. WHILE WE LACK FIGURES, FREQUENCY OF NEWS REPORTS LEAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION DGS MAKING MORE FREQUENT USE OF ITS AUTHORITY TO CANCEL PUBLIC MEETINGS, EVEN IF THEY HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL, IF THEY SUSPECT THEY MAY BECOME POLITICALLY DISTURBING. CIVIL GOVERNOR OF PAMPLONA HAS IMPOSED FINES ON MORE THAN 30 NAVARRE PRIESTS FOR INFLAMMATORY REMARKS DURING RECENT SERIES OF LABOR DISPUTES, ACTION WHICH DREW CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MADRID 01355 270853Z

PUBLIC WRITTEN PROTEST FROM BISHOP OF PAMPLONA THAT FINES PROCEDURE CIRCUMVENTED CONCORDAT'S AGUARANTEES THAT NO CLERGY WILL BE SUBJECT TO LEGAL ACTION WITHOUT HIERARCHY'S APPROVAL. LATEST STEP IN GOVT CRACKDOWN IS FEB 25 WAS SUSPENSION FOR 3 MONTHS OF 18 MADRID NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOUSEWIVES ASSOCIATIONS THAT SUPPORTED PROTEST BOYCOTT OF MARKETS AND BLACKOUT OF HOMES ON FEB 20 "DAY OF STRUGGLE.

8. COMMENT: PREDOMINANT ORIENTATION AND EXPERIENCE OF CANINET'S 2 KEY FIGURES, PRIME MIN ARIAS AND INTERIOR MIN GARCIA HERNANDEZ, IS IN FIELD OF PUBLIC ORDER (ARIAS SERVED AS MIN OF INTERIOR AND CHIEF OF DGS). CURRENT POLITICAL EFFERVESCENCE IS UNFAMILIAR PHENOMENON FOR GOS AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT FIRST REACTION TO IT OF POLITICALLY INEXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATION IS TO TIGHTEN SCREWS. GOVT ALSO INTENT ON COUNTERACTING GROWING IMPRESSION, PARTICULARLY AMONT ITS ALLIES ON RIGHT, THAT IT IS WEAK AND INDECISIVE. BUT SO

FAR GOVT HAS SHOWN TENDENCY TO RESPOND UNEVENLY OR EVEN IMPULSIVELY
TO PUBLIC ORDER THREATS AND TO FAIL TO DISTINGUISH CAREFULLY BETWEEN
LEGITIMATE PEACEFUL DISSENT AND SUBVERSION. RESULT IS SOME PUBLIC
CONFUSION ABOUT LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE AT VERY TIME GOVT RHETORIC
APPEALS FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION. SO FAR, INCREASED GOVT REP-
RESSIVENESS DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE HAD INHIBITING EFFECT OF GROWING
AGGRESSIVENESS OF PRESS OR GENERAL POLITICAL EBULLIENCE. NEWLY
POLITICIZED GENERATION OF YOUNGER SPANIARDS, WHO LACK CIVIL WAR
HANG-UPS, GIVE IMPRESSION OF BEING LESS EASILY INTIMIDATED
BY REPRESSIVE ACTIONS.
EATON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, LABOR RELATIONS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID01355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750069-0264
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajrk.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 937, 75 MADRID 851, 75 MADRID 799, 75 MADRID 429
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH GOVT TIGHTENS CONTROLS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006